

CAVE DWELLERS ON THE FRENCH COAST.

Cliffs Inhabited by Many Peasants, Who Make a Meagre Living.

Attention is so frequently called to the gaiety of modern Parisian life that one forgets the fact that all French are not Paris born. Along the coasts of France live the poorest of the French peasants, writes Mabel Rutledge to the Chicago News. They are fishermen, hunt stone gatherers and cliff dwellers, whose dwellings may be seen clustered together near the seaport towns. Near Dieppe, where the great chalk cliffs rise abruptly from the beach, the scenes are frequently so picturesque, and weird as to furnish the setting to the most romantic tale.

The fishermen deserve remark as much for what they do not do as for the amount of labor they put forth. Going out in their little sailing craft they fish until the boat is loaded. Returning home, they are met at the end of the long pier by 30 or 40 women. It is the business of these women to seize the rope tossed to them and pull the

boat along to the inner dock. While enjoying this unique mode of locomotion the men calmly sit on the docks, smoke their pipes and wait until their wives and neighbors have made the dock.

Once landed, the men stroll off in groups or sit lazily about exchanging wonderful yarns of the sea. Meanwhile the women unload the boat, clean the fish, take them to market and sell them to the townfolk. This accomplished, the husbands return to their work and start on another cruise. Situated at the end of the pier is a large crucifix, and it is not an uncommon sight to see a little band of women huddled there during a terrible storm, devoutly praying for their husbands at sea. It is a picture so full of pathos as to live long in the memory when once it has been seen.

Hard Working People.
The flint stone gatherers are probably the hardest working people of their class. They go out in the early morning with great deep baskets strapped to their backs and toil laboriously all day long to receive a mere pittance for each wagonload of stones. The stones, from which fine glassed ware is made, are gathered far down the beach near the water's edge. They are picked up and deftly tossed over the shoulder into the basket.

When this is filled, the woman—for

she does most of this work—picks slowly up the beach to where she has started her little pile of stones. The observer wonders how she will unstrap the heavy basket, but in a trice she has bent low and ducked her head while the stones rattle out over her shoulder and the load is quickly emptied. The wonder is how she escaped having as many bruises on her head as there were stones in the basket. However, she complacently rises and trudges off, none the worse for the experience.

These women bring along to the beach their children, who play about until noontime, when a most unusual luncheon is served. The little ones are gathered together around some large rock, which the ebbing tide has left uncovered with snails and barnacles. Producing a small knife, the mother proceeds to scrape off these slimy little sea creatures and prying out the contents of the shell puts it into the first wide open mouth. Repeating the action, another mouth is ready, just waiting in anticipation of the choice tidbit. Thus the meal continues. Sometimes a loaf of hard, black bread is added to make the repast a success.

Houses in the Chalk Cliffs.
The cave dwellers, however, invite the most interest, and at the same time the most sympathy. They are even too poor to afford the luxury of a miser-

able hovel, but cut their little caves out of the soft chalk cliffs that border the channel. This is work fraught with much danger, for not infrequently huge chunks of chalk become dislodged through the action of the weather and crash down to the beach. They make the cave quite comfortable by hanging up an old sail on the exposed side. A fire of driftwood on the floor gives some heat and very much more smoke. This seems not to worry them, for they add smoke to smoke by doing large quantities of the cheapest tobacco or dried weeds. Men and women alike indulge.

The domestic etiquette of these cave folk is not always above reproach. We recall an old couple who had carved out a large cave, with a smaller one on each side opening into it. These smaller caves were connected in the rear by winding passageways, which led back into the heart of the cliff.

At the doors of these caves and facing the open space of the larger one the old couple would sit, the man on one side, the woman facing him on the other. Here they would smoke many peaceful hours away, until, happening upon some unfortunate theme of discussion in which they could not agree, the words would wax warmer and warmer. When things had been worked up to a climax the old woman, springing to her feet, would dart after

her luckless spouse, who would quickly disappear into the dark passageway. You would be left to imagine whether the irate wife had caught him or not, until suddenly the old man would appear in the doorway of the opposite cave. There he would stand for a moment peering around with furtive glances, until the sound of approaching footsteps would send him scuttling away again.

Reach an Agreement.
The vision of the pursuer chattering in a torrent of angry French and armed by this time with an old broom handle she had snatched up was one not calculated to allay your fears for the fugitive. Again a long silence would follow and apparently some agreement would be reached, for when you saw them again all was calm and the offending head of the family would quietly take his place and resume his smoking.

Now these cave dwellers find sufficient to eat is a mystery. A few fish caught in nets and the skins of rabbits hunted in nearby fields are sold for the few pennies which buy their black bread and blacker tobacco. Their clothing has apparently descended from a long line of ancestry and presents the appearance, especially with the women, of a lost and wandering rainbow, so varied are the hues that make up their costume.

When these fisherfolk go to the market or open square to sell their fish they have an ingenious device for keeping warm. A little shack of boards keeps off the cold wind and a small charcoal pot swung under the skirt between the feet by means of cords from the waist furnishes all the warmth they need. Their dexterity in managing to move about with this swinging stove is quite remarkable.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

Paul Dickey, leading man to Miss Henrietta Crossman in "Sham," has written a play entitled "The Ghost Breakers," which has been accepted for production by H. B. Harris.

Gustave Amberg will produce in Berlin and Vienna this season Eugene Walter's plays "Paid in Full," "The Easiest Way," and "The Wolf." Mr. Walter has consented to stage them.

Robert Davis, author of "The Family," which Henry Miller produced, has written, together with Henry Mirk, a comedy called "The Gringo," which will be produced in Los Angeles, Cal.

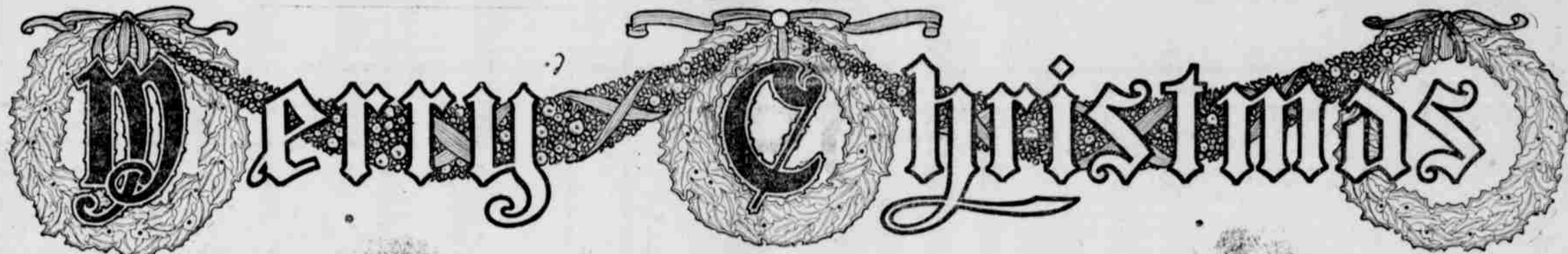
Florence Roberts is to make a tour of the West under the management of the Shuberts in "The Transformation."

a new play by Rupert Hughes, author of "The Movers" and "Gloria." She will appear in New York in the spring. Marie Doris's special engagement with William Gillette next season in her familiar role in "Clarice" will be so arranged as not to interfere with her starring tour in a new play. She will give about twenty performances with Mr. Gillette.

William Morris, Inc., has entered into an arrangement with the Shuberts whereby Harry Lauder, the famous Scotch comedian, will make a prolonged tour of the Shubert houses. Mr. Lauder will be supported by a first-class vaudeville company.

This new anesthetic may be all right for surgical operations and all that, but what the world still needs is a cure-all for all kinds of pain. The rejected lover needs a pain-killer that he can apply immediately his heart has received a swat from the one he adores. The poet, driven ruthlessly from the editorial room, needs something to kill the pain inflicted by the heartless editor. Then there is the man whose auto won't budge and night is coming on; the theatrical beginner who has been hooked by the audience, etc. Oh, we could name a hundred uses for an ever-ready, vast pocket pain extinguisher.—Joe Conn, in Boston Herald.

1909



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Toilet sets from **\$3.50 to \$12.50**
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Fancy plates from **50c to \$5.00**
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Horns and musical instruments of every description from **10c to \$1.50**
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Toy tin wash board and tubs (in basement), set **15c**

Shoe Department

No need to rack your brain for a suitable gift for that boy or girl. Give them a pair of skating shoes and skates from this store. There isn't anything that will please them better.

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Novelties

Handkerchiefs from 2c to \$2.00.
Ladies' Crepe and Jap Scarfs, Toilet Cases, Handkerchief Boxes, Manicure Sets, Music Rolls, Fancy Boxes, Writing Paper, Military Brushes and Mirrors of all descriptions will be found in our spacious main floor.

Furniture, Carpet and Rug Department

By visiting our third floor you will find many things in the way of Furniture that will make very acceptable Christmas Gifts. We are well stocked for the Holiday trade and have a very large line of Furniture, Pictures, Rugs, Carpets, Lace Curtains, and Tapestry Curtains to select from. We are in a position to satisfy everyone. Visit our Furniture Department if you are thinking of anything in this line.

Special Bargains

Special sale of 50 cases of fine oranges, while they last, per doz. **27c**
Cranberries for Xmas dinner, per qt. **10c**
Mixed nuts, special for the holidays, per lb. **12c**

Cloak Department

Visit Our Cloak Department for Christmas Gifts

Cloth Coats	.....	\$7.50 to \$35.00
Fur trimmed coats	.....	\$9.50 to \$20.00
Fur and plush lined coats	.....	\$15.00 to \$50.00
Fur jackets	.....	\$20.00 to \$150.00
Fur sets (ladies)	.....	\$2.75 to \$60.00
Fur sets (children)	.....	\$1.25 to \$7.50
Ladies' Fur Caps	.....	\$2.50 to \$14.50
Children's Coats	.....	\$2.00 to \$10.00
Baby Cutter Robes	.....	\$2.50 to \$7.50
Silk Petticoats	\$3.00 to \$8.50
Satin and Heatherbl.	75c to \$3.75
Dressing Jackets	50c to \$3.00
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Child's Sweaters	90c to \$1.50
Misses' Sweaters	\$1.50 to \$2.75
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Shawls, single or double	\$2.00 to \$10.00
Silk Waists	\$2.75 to \$7.50

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Whether some gift is sought for the home, or some token showing personal regard for the comfort of a man, woman or a child—these displays in our Fancy Goods sections are appointed to meet every such requirement. Customers will find few such opportunities to extend the purchasing power of Christmas money in gifts that will be appreciated because of their practicality. We mention but a few items.

Leather Hand Bags

Black seal and goat leather bags with 3 inch frame and 7 inch deep fitted with good coin purse and outside pockets at **98c to \$3.00**

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29c—Parlor maid's aprons for Christmas gifts, 15 attractive styles are featured in a special lot.
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A thousand and one other items cannot be mentioned for lack of space. Visit this department and be convinced.

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